

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 INT-05 /110 W

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R 211120Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5624

INFO NAC COLLECTIVE 079

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 3151

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, CE, US

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE: US
"PRESENCE" AT NAC

1. GREATLY APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S MESSAGE (STATE 205844 NOTAL). WE ARE PLEASED ESPECIALLY TO LEARN THAT THE REPORTING WHICH WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE CONCERNING THE CONFERENCE WAS OF VALUE. WE BELIEVE THAT DESIRED RESULTS WERE OBTAINED DUE TO WASHINGTON HAVING DEVOTED ALL RESOURCES WHICH IT DID TO THAT EFFORT.

2. OUR OVERRIDING IMPRESSION, FROM TALKS WHICH WE HAVE HAD HERE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OVER 90 COUNTRIES AND GROUPS, HAS BEEN THAT INCREASED US ATTENTION TO NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND ITS MEETINGS IS WELCOMED.

3. WE HAVE FOUND THAT FORMULA FOLLOWED AT THE ALGIERS NACC MEETING MAY-JUNE, WAS SUCCESSFUL. THROUGH FRIENDLY, OPEN, AND DISCREET MEETINGS, AVOIDING ANY IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE ENDEAVORING TO CAUSE DIVISIONS, MOST DELEGATES WITH WHOM WE MET WERE IN TURN OPEN, AND READILY PROVIDED INFORMATION AND OTHER ASSISTANCE. BUT LOGISTICS WERE PURE HELL DELEGATES WERE

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SPREAD OUT AMONG FIFTEEN PLUS, FAR-FLUNG HOTESS, AND PRECISE

ACCOMMODATIONS VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN ACCESS AND TO MOST HOTELS WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. OUR ENTRY TO THE CONFERENCE HALL ITSELF WAS BARRED.

4. FURTHER, OUR PRESENCE AND CONTACT WORK ALSO ENABLED US TO FOLLOWUP ON EXCELLENT GROUNDWORK CARRIED OUT BY THE FIELD, DEPARTMENT AND USUN, REGARDING ISSUES OF KEY CONCERN TO USG. TO THOSE COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN OUR CASE, WE WERE ABLE TO REITERATE OUR POSITION AND URGE THEIR ASSISTANCE. WE BELIEVE THAT DUE IN SOME PART TO OUR PRESENCE HERE, CERTAIN COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE HAVE DONE SO WERE LED TO RECALL BRIEFINGS WHICH THEY HAD HAD AT HOME REGARDING SERIOUSNESS OF OUR CONCERN OVER THESE AND OTHER ISSUES. ALSO, MANY REALIZED THAT THEY COULD NOT LATER TELL USG HOW MUCH THEY HAD HELPED US ON A GIVEN ISSUE WHEN, IN FACT, THEY HAD NOT, SINCE INFORMATION ON THOSE WHO HAD BEEN OCFOR AND AGAINST VARIOUS POSITIONS READILY BECAME PUBLIC IN COLOMBO. ONE ASPECT WHICH DID SURPRISE US WAS DEGREE TO WHICH CERTAIN DELEGATES WHOM WE HAD NOT CONTACTED, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, SOUGHT US OUT. RESULTING DISCUSSIONS THEN INVOLVED SUBJECTS RANGING FROM REQUESTS FOR HELP IN RETRIEVING LOST SUITCASES TO EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON SUBSTANCE.

5. BELIEVE OUR PRESENCE IN ALGIERS AND COLOMBO HAS ALSO PROMPTED EUROPEAN CONCERN, AS EVIDENCED BY AUGMENTED STAFFS AND INCREASED ATTENTION DEVOTED TO THIS CONFERENCE BY UK, FRANCE, FRG, CANADA, NEW ZEALAND, ITALY, AUSTRALIA, AND JAPAN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOVIET EMBASSY IN ALGIERS HAD RECOMMENDED MOSCOW SEND ADDITIONAL OFFICERS TO COVER CONFERENCE THERE AND LATER IN COLOMBO, BUT THAT SOVIETS CHOSE NOT TO DO SO. SOVIETS OBVIOUSLY WERE NOT WITHOUT THEIR SURROGATES, HOWEVER, WHO CERTAINLY WERE DOING THEIR LOBBYING AND REPORTING FOR THEM, AN ADVANTAGE WHICH WE CLEARLY WOULD NOT HAVE HAD. ENJOYED.
REED

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